

THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JULY 2020

COVID-19 update from the Board; No July Meeting

First, the good news:

The board of the Beckham Bird Club met June 2 and determined to conduct the annual election of officers via email, as that appeared to be the only option given the extraordinary circumstances in which we all find ourselves.

The election was conducted earlier this month and 89 ballots were returned – a great turnout! Thanks to all who took the time to respond. The slate of candidates received unanimous approval. Joining the board is Meg Brown, who will succeed Jean Jones as secretary. Jean had served the maximum number of terms allowed. Thanks to Jean for a job well done!! All other officers and board members will remain as before.

Because the email election was such a success, the board will be proposing a by-law amendment, to be voted on at the 2021 annual meeting, that would formalize the option of conducting email elections going forward.

Now, less happily:

Beckham Bird Club activities continue to be suspended through July. St. Mark's Episcopal Church remains closed, so our meeting space is unavailable. St. Mark's will decide in July on when to reopen and will inform us of their decision. We are hoping to resume meetings in August, but whether that is possible will depend on the course of the pandemic.

The board also discussed resumption of field trips in the fall. While a starting date remains uncertain, a number of changes likely will be necessary, including:

- Advance registration
- A cap on attendance
- Measures such as requiring wearing of masks and physical distancing.
- Moving field trips in popular parks to weekdays to avoid crowds.

We know our membership is eager to return to our regular activities. But the beauty of birding is that it can be done both in groups and alone. The birds are equally beautiful either way.

Finally, please remember to contribute to the Birdathon. Conservation efforts continue even among the disruptions in our society, and the organizations in our community and our state still need your support. Please help them out as you are able.

Thank you. THE BBC BOARD

BIRD QUIZ

What North American songbird has the simplest and shortest song? **ANSWER:** Check the last page of the newsletter.

NEW BBC BOARD FOR 2020-2019

The BBC board for the upcoming year was approved by our members and the following will serve for the upcoming year.

PRESIDENT- Andrew Melynkovych

VICE PRESIDENT – Carol Besse

SECRETARY – Meg Brown

TREASURER – Judith McCandless

DIRECTORS FOR TWO YEARS – Joanne Luyster and Pat Bell

Jamie Baker will remain on the board as past-president. Karen Bonsell and Pam Spaulding have another year to serve as directors.

Thanks to Jean Jones for serving as secretary the past four years.

2020 BBC BIRDATHON

So far over \$12,000 has been raised but we need your donation to get to \$20,000.

Many members and friends have sent in their donations. Have you? Your donations are very important to the different groups BBC have accepted as recipients of our birdathon money. **NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL.** Make your check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**. Send your contribution to the post office box address: Beckham Bird Club, P.O. Box 5301, Louisville, KY 40255-0301. Otherwise send it to the person you sponsored. **Help us reach \$20,000.** Thanks so much!!!

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of John Finley. John and his wife, Linda Stahl Finley, were active members of BBC before they moved. Several contributions were made to BBC in John's memory.



We also would like to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Bill Bauer who passed away on June 25. Mary Bill was a member of BBC for over 50 years.

SPECIAL CONCERN



Some of you may be aware that several of our members have very serious medical issues. We ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

BBC Conservation Report Websites July 2020

Hi Everyone,

I decided to provide you with some positive (for the most part) articles about birds for the July newsletter. With so much uncertainty and upheaval, I thought these articles might provide a respite. Enjoy!

Joanne

For proper pronunciation of bird names : www.audubon.org/pronunciations

Important milestone in Grasshopper sparrow numbers

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLFFWCC/bulletins/28bcac9?emci=f89c7263-8c9b-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=1eedec9a-e99d-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=1314690>

Report on the abundance of Sandhill Cranes at Platte River

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tnas/523/>

Raptors and Microplastics

https://phys.org/news/2020-05-microplastics-florida-birds-prey.html?fbclid=IwAR0Zp3XLo_0_YjN8Kwk8u2LCFiiKvlePcagp-jOy69QoE_keau0abZmfxH0&emci=bb0599f2-cda1-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=4dcf7ddf-7da2-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=1314690

Amazing Bird Photos

https://www.audubon.org/news/12-fascinating-bird-behaviors-2019-audubon-photography-awards?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20200224_eng-email_medium&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20200224_eng-email&utm_content=medium&emci=c517b8af-f754-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&emdi=e474112b-1757-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&ceid=1314690

Victory for Migratory Birds in Virginia: Commonwealth of Virginia is protecting the mid-Atlantic's largest water bird colony, which includes Royal Terns, Common Terns, Laughing Gulls, and several other species.

<https://abcbirds.org/article/hampton-roads-waterbird-colony-may-2020-milestone/?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=1ef94133-8bb8-42d1-8c28-67f08530e4d3>

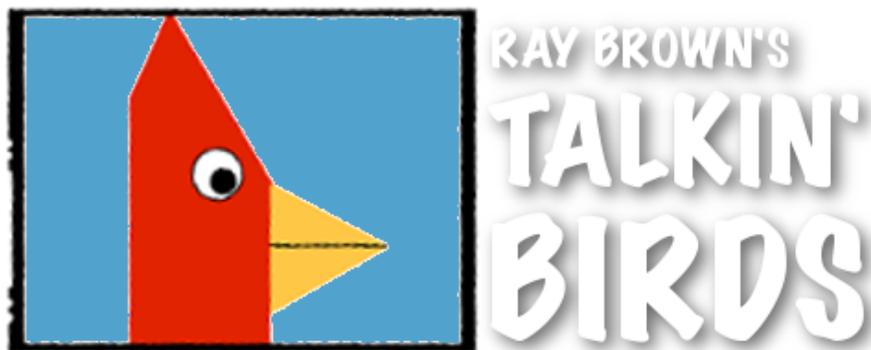
Conservation efforts by ABC and partners to protect Brazil's Blue-eyed Ground-Dove show early signs of success.

<https://abcbirds.org/article/milestone-blue-eyed-ground-dove-count-spring-2020/?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=1ef94133-8bb8-42d1-8c28-67f08530e4d3>

When is a bird a “birb?”

https://www.audubon.org/news/when-bird-birb-extremely-important-guide?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20200222_eng-email_medium&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20200222_eng-email&utm_content=medium&emci=dba1e2fd-f254-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&emdi=bbdbf36a-8455-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&ceid=1314690

Below is an article that was in an earlier newsletter. If you didn't check it out before you might want to do so now while you are staying home because of Covid-19.



[Learning more about birds and conservation just got a whole lot easier \(and more fun!\).](#)

Hi, my name is Freya McGregor, and as a recent arrival at Fort Knox, brand new Beckham Bird Club member and Ray's Outreach Coordinator, I'd like to invite you to listen to our show. *Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds* airs live on Sundays from 9.30-10am Eastern Time on a couple of radio stations in Massachusetts, but you can listen to a live stream on our website: www.talkinbirds.com (no "g"). If you listen live, you can ring in to the Mystery Bird Contest and win great prizes! You can also listen to the show as a podcast (which are free to download on your smartphone), which means you can listen to it whenever you like (I usually listen when I'm driving). If you've never 'subscribed' to a podcast before, there are step-by-step instructions on our website to show you how to do it.

Ray aims the show both at new birdwatchers and at those who've been doing this a while, with recent conservation news, special guests (which could be anyone from a listener who volunteers in a bird-related way to an author or ornithologist to someone at a local Audubon chapter on new bird-friendly initiatives they're working on), a Featured Feathered Friend and the always enlightening and enjoyable Let's Ask Mike segment.

You can also follow us on Facebook (Talkin' Birds Radio Show), and Instagram and Twitter @talkinbirds If you notice an occasional Australian slant with the photos on Instagram, it's because I'm Australian and I'm the one who runs the Instagram page!

I hope you tune in, and I'm looking forward to hearing how you like the show!

PS You can catch me at freya@talkinbirds.com if you have ideas about the show, or if you know any local radio stations who might be a good fit for us to air on! And thanks!

ANSWER TO QUIZ: HENSLOW'S SPARROW.

David Sibley describes it as a weak hiccup.